

Invest in Legacy Funding for Minnesota Public Libraries

Legacy programs in public libraries expand cultural awareness, develop a sense of history and create connections between communities and local artists.

Support SF664 and HF2386

Chief Authors Senator Mary Kunesh and Representative Ethan Cha

Request for \$3M per year from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund for Regional Public Library Systems

In 2021, more than 28,302 programs, classes and projects in partnership with arts and cultural organizations, independent artists, historical societies and community organizations were offered with a total of 2,320,615 participants!

Legacy Funding for Public Libraries Results in a Better Minnesota



Expanding Cultural Awareness

Saint Paul Public Library partners with community artists to engage hundreds of residents each year in arts and cultural heritage events and activities, including working with community members to celebrate Hmong New Year and creating a short film featuring the Hmong tradition of soul calling (Hu Plig). SPPL created and published a children's book in the Karen language which was launched at a community celebration with more than 300 people in attendance. Staff hosted programs and activities for Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Somali Independence Celebration, Black History Month, Juneteenth and much more.

- Saint Paul Public Library

Fostering Creativity through the Arts

Finding programs that engage teens is a challenge, but teens flocked to libraries across Great River Regional Library to attend skateboard art workshops. The open-ended workshops gave teens skills and basic tools to explore their creativity.

Participants said they "learned how to create cool art" and that the class "forced me to try something new and taught me new things." Legacy funding allows the library to offer high-quality learning experiences tailored to the wide range of interests in our region. Legacy programming brings diverse arts and cultural opportunities to every community with a library in every corner of the state.

-Great River Regional Library

Improving Quality of Life

Legacy funds have made possible a wealth of arts, cultural heritage, and history programs in the Viking Library System. In many communities in the region, the library is the only organization able to offer free public programs. ACHF programming has been a "game changer," making activities available in areas not generally reached by other arts and history organizations.

In the most recent fiscal year, Legacy funds supported 34 projects, for a total of 176 events reaching 6686 people and involving all 11 member libraries. None of this would be possible without Legacy funding.

- Viking Library System

7 million
public
computer and
WIFI sessions

32.3 million
books, magazines,
DVDs, science
kits borrowed

23,000 +
community
learning
programs

300,000 +
Participation
in literacy
& learning
activities.

 MINNESOTA LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION

